Introduction of MICR technology for cheques in Banks

2889. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress made so far in the introduction of Magnetic Ink Characters Recognition (MICR) cheques and the follow-up "action to introduce the MICR technology for clearing of cheques", particularly the installation of readers, and encoders at branch level and linking of sorters in the Reserve Bank of India to these branches; and

(b) what steps are being taken to educate the bank customers in handling the MICR technology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) Reserve Bank of India has reported that most of the banks have started issuing Magnetic Ink Characters Recognition (MICR) Cheques in the metropolitan cities of Bombay, Delhi, Madras and Calcutta. Reserve Bank of India has also initiated steps for installation of encoding and sorting machines to make computers cheque processing system complete.

(b) (1) Do's and Dont's in regard to handling of MICR cheques are printed on the covers of the MICR cheque books for the guidance of customers.

(2) Banks have started distributing pamphlets/hand-outs on MICR technology.

(3) Indian Bank's Association is taking up publicity on behalf of member banks towards customer education.

(4) Other measures such as advertisement in newspapers, Television, Radio are being contemplated.

Forgery relating to dividend warrants detected in various Banks

2890. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a criminal case of forgery and misappropriation of negotiable instruments, viz., dividend warrants drawn on various banks supported by photo copies of the forged instruments was registered at Dibrugarh P.S. (Assam) on 30th June, 1984 as directed by the Additional S. P. Dibrugarh District;

(b) whether it is also a fact that on the 11th February, 1985 the Director General of Police, Assam was personally informed in writing of the details of the said case and complete inaction on the part of Dibrugarh Police in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the follow-up action taken so far in the matter; and

(d) if no action has been taken, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government of Assam has intimated that a criminal case No. 298/84 under Section 419|420|408 IPC has been registered at Dibrugarh P.S. on 30-6-84.

(c) and (d) The State Government has further reported that investigation in this case has not yet concluded.

Import of coins

2891. SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number with denomination and value of different coins which have been manufactured in foreign countries and imported during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) what is the number with denomination of blank coins imported during the above period; and

(c) what are the names of the countries from which the coins were imported and the value of coins received from them so far and also the amount paid for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) and (c) The information is given below:

Year	Denomination	Number in million pieces	Face Value in Crores	Country import
1983-84	..	..	..	..
1984-85	..	..	..	..
1985-86	Re. 1/-	1000	100·00	U.K.
	50 Paise	750	37·50	South Korea
	20 Paise	250	6·25	Canada
		20000	14375	

The total cost of import of these coins is Rs. 64.96 crores approximately. Coins of a total face value of Rs. 35.99 crores have been received so far, for which payments of about Rs. 16.61 crores has been made.

(b) The information is given below:

Year in which imported	Denomination in blanks	Number in million pieces
1983-84	Re. 1/-	50
1984-85	Rs. 2/-	75
	Re. 1/-	100
	25 Paise	45
1985-86	Re. 1/-	150
	50 Paise	150
	25 Paise	100

गेस्टकीन विलियम्स लि०, हावड़ा

2892. **श्री प्यारेलाल खंडेलवाल :** क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि गेस्टकीन विलियमस लिमिटेड, हावड़ा को अपने एक एकक/एच०एम०पी० इंजिनियरिंग्स लिमिटेड को बेचने की अनुमति दी गई है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो कम्पनी ने किस नियम के अधीन अपनी विदेशी शाखा (डिवीजन) को एच०एम० पी० इंजिनियरिंग लिमिटेड को हस्तान्तरित किया है ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जनार्दन पुजारी) : (क) मैसर्स गेस्टकीन विलियम्स लिमिटेड ने, विदेशी मुद्रा विनियमन अधिनियम, 1973 की धारा 31 के अन्तर्गत फोर्जिंग्स डिवीजन को एच० एम० पी० इंजीनियर्स लिमिटेड कलकत्ता के पास बेचने के लिए भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक को एक आवेदन पत्र प्रस्तुत किया है । भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक ने अभी तक उपर्युक्त विक्रय के लिए अनुमति नहीं दी है ।

(ख) उपर्युक्त कम्पनी, फोर्जिंग्स डिविजनों, को, कम्पनी अधिनियम, 1956 तथा अन्य समस्त प्रवृत्त कानूनों के उपबंधों का पालन करते हुए किसी को भी बेच सकती है ।

Employment Opportunities in Eastern Region

2893. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the details of employment opportunities created in the Eastern region of the country during the last two decades and the number of registered job-seekers in that region during the same period;

(b) the details of such figures for the Northern region, Western region and Southern region; and

(c) the reasons for differences in the growth of employment opportunities in different regions of the country?